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## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A technique improves the interaction between a backup remote data link switch (DLSw) device coupled to a remote subnetwork having an Ethernet switch and a local DLSw device coupled to a local subnetwork of a DLSw network. When the backup remote DLSw device accepts a DLSw peer connection with the local DLSw device, the remote device uses configuration information to determine which end stations it can reach through the peer connection. The remote DLSw device then generates one or more test frames having the medium access control (MAC) addresses of those reachable stations as source MAC addresses. The test frames are sent through the Ethernet switch to force the switch to immediately update its forwarding table with the port identifier of the port receiving the incoming frames, along with the source MAC addresses of those frames.